

Janice Barrett  
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June 21, 2012

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As an individual who frequently uses long-distance services, I am writing to express my concern over your Notice of Proposed Rulemaking as it pertains to third-party billing. Such a proposed rule threatens to make several changes to existing law that may take away my ability to choose between multiple long-distance companies. These changes, should they be enacted, would adversely impact individuals like myself who benefit from a choice between service providers. Such a choice gives me the ability to pick a long-distance company that gives me the best service, lowest price and highest-quality calling.

I applaud your efforts to protect consumers from phone bill cramming, but also strongly believe that third-party billing services are of great importance to businesses and consumers alike. They must be preserved in any new rules that are implemented for the industry.

Specifically, the FCC's proposed "opt-in" requirement means that I would have to go through another layer of opting-in, even after going through the affirmative process of placing a collect or long-distance call. I believe that implementing an additional consent process is unworkable, and will result in increased costs for people such as myself and many others who are already facing difficult economic times.

It's clear that the FCC's proposed rule has unintended consequences. There are more effective ways to thwart the practice that will help weed out the bad actors, without punishing individuals such as myself.

I urge you to consider the millions of Americans like me who would see their phone bills increase and lose choice by a decision to require an "opt-in" to third-party billing services. The financial impact on me will be significant. I am very satisfied with the process of paying for my long-distance services through my local phone bill and would be concerned if the FCC were to take away my ability to choose between multiple long-distance companies.

I believe that having more choices among long-distance providers gives me the best chance to get better prices and services for long-distance services. I urge you to protect them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Janice Barrett